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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/763,076	05/14/2001	Ian Jeffrey Evans	109846.205/SYN-071	2695

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EXAMINER

BUI, PHUONG T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1638

DATE MAILED: 10/01/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/763,076

Applicant(s)
Evans et al.

Examiner
Phuong Bui

Art Unit
1638



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claims 1-35 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Initially the Office notes that the claims directed to "Use of ..." find no U.S. counterpart and would therefore be directed to non-statutory subject matter. In order to permit the grouping of these claims, for purposes of this requirement, the Office interprets these claims to be directed to the underlying product as set forth below. If these claims are elected, Applicant should consider amending these claims at that time in order to conform with U.S. practice.

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-21, drawn to a method for the expression of multiple polypeptides.

Group II, claim(s) 22-26, drawn to a propeptide linker.

Group III, claim(s) 27-35, drawn to a DNA construct.

In addition to an election of one of inventions I-III listed above, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required to elect a one of the following inventions to which the claims must be restricted.

Group A, drawn to a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding polypeptide.

Group B, drawn to a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 4 or the corresponding polypeptide.

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Group C, drawn to a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 6 or the corresponding polypeptide.

Group D, drawn to a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 7 or the corresponding polypeptide.

Group E, drawn to a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 21 or the corresponding polypeptide.

Group F, drawn to a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 22 or the corresponding polypeptide.

Group G, drawn to a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 23 or the corresponding polypeptide.

Group H, drawn to a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 24 or the corresponding polypeptide.

Group I, drawn to a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 25 or the corresponding polypeptide.

Group J, drawn to a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 26 or the corresponding polypeptide.

Group K, drawn to a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 27 or the corresponding polypeptide.

Group L, drawn to a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 28 or the corresponding polypeptide.

Group M, drawn to a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 29 or the corresponding polypeptide.

Group N, drawn to a polynucleotide of Fig. 34 or the corresponding polypeptide.

2. The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: These groups lack or corresponding special technical feature. Group I is a method of using the polynucleotide which shares a special technical feature with the polynucleotide of Group III, that being the expression of multiple polypeptides fused by a cleavable linker peptide. However, this feature is either not novel or obvious over WO-A-9524486. In addition, the polynucleotide of Group III is structurally and functionally divergent

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from the polypeptide of Group II, and as such, these groups do not share a special technical feature.

3. The inventions listed as Groups A-N do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Though each of the listed polynucleotides is asserted to encode a propeptide cleavable linker, each of the polynucleotides is structurally divergent and each of the polynucleotides encodes a divergent propeptide linker. Accordingly, the recited polynucleotides and corresponding propeptides lack a common special technical feature.

4. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143). In this case, Applicant is required to elect one of groups I-III and one of groups A-N in response to this requirement.

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

6. Papers relating to this application may be submitted to Technology Sector 1 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Crystal Mall 1, Art Unit 1638, using fax number (703) 308-4242. All Technology Sector 1 fax machines are available to receive transmissions 24 hrs/day, 7 days/wk. Please note that the faxing of such papers must conform with the Notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30, (November 15, 1989).

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong Bui whose telephone number is (703) 305-1996. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 6:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Amy Nelson, can be reached at (703) 306-3218.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Phuong Bui
Primary Examiner
Group Art Unit 1638
September 30, 2002

Phuong Bui
PHUONG T. BUI
PRIMARY EXAMINER 9/30/02